MS 1299

Brothers, & Chiefs of the City we call Boston

I am glad to see your Faces and to hear your Voices by the Council Fire which have reminded thro' the Six Nations. I have heard what you have said with Pleasure. I shall be glad to light my Pipe by your Fire & retire for a few Minutes and then you shall hear my Voice again.

Brothers, Chiefs, and Warriors,

Give your Attention. We have heard your Voice at this our Council Fire upon the Occasion of your meeting some Warriors from the Westward of the Oneida Country. We rejoice, Brothers in having heard your Voice, this was Part of our Business, and it is matter of thankfulness to us that the Great God has given us this day for an Interview with you at your Council Fire.

Brothers, It is very agreeable when those meet together to smoke a Pipe around the Council Fire and have their Minds united. We have a peculiar Sensation of Joy upon meeting you and such a Number of You, Sachems and Warriors.

Brothers, compassionate us! we are but a small Handful o

before you .... We are not Counsellors, Sachems, but Warriors ... Deliberation belongs to Counsellors ... Warriors for Dispatch therefore you will expect, but few Words, as being Warriors here before you .... You have been pleased to relate to us something of the War that has taken Place between you and the King of Great Britain ... all you have related has been agreeable to us ... indeed we have heard your Voice in the Wilderness and have heard the Treatment you met with from the King and have thought we should be in the same Situation with our American Brethren ~

Brothers, Sachems, and Warriors.

It gives us peculiar Sensations of Joy that we find the Cloud which the King of England drew over this City, has disappeared, and that your Feet tread upon the Ground of your Ancestors the Ground where you had your Existance ~

Indeed, Brothers, we have trembled for you while we heard your Enemies had fast bound this City ... We also heard of their running away from this City and ~ we rejoiced at the News ... however Brothers, both must ascribe this to the Great Spirit that rules above for we of the Oneida Nation consider ourselves in one and the same Situation with our American Brethren ~ We therefore rejoice to see you beginning to rise and that GOD has taught you to make many things. Brothers, we told you that our Business down here was to see with our own Eyes ... not that we Warriors suspect the Eyes or the Mouths of any

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of our American Brethen; but our Sachems do... They suspect that our American Brethen have not behaved valiantly in the Field... have not equalled their Enemy.... We have resented this and told them that we would see with our own Eyes.... Brothers we have now the Pleasure to tell you that one Part of our Business is answered; we have seen with Admiration and to our great Joy that you are Warriors.

Brothers, in the Course of your Address to us, you exhorted us to be of a firm Mind and not open our Ears to evil Reports from the Northward... Brothers do we not Evidence by being here that we are of a strong Mind? You have an Enemy at Niagara, Col.o Butler, who is constantly throwing Discouragements and Confusion among the Six Nations... Were we but Children we might easily be conquered by his Persuasion or his Threats... However we thank you for your Caution... Possess your Minds in Peace be assured the Oneida Warriors are Friends in Heart and ready to Assist the Americans whenever it shall be necessary for them to step forth...

Brothers, As I told you that We Oneidas are Americans; it may not be improper that you should know our Conduct when the News of your final parting from England reached us...

Brothers, was it not a day of Joy with us we caused our Guns to speak... When this News came to us, we were at Fort Schuyler and rejoiced, that you were now become your own Men; we in the Fort fire

our Guns are Shouted ... This fired our Characters among our Nations & caused Divisions; when there is a Division among the Six Nations we fall to your Side ..... Brothers, I do not take it you want any further Evidence of our Attachment to the American Cause, certainly we come into Existence on one and the same Spot of Ground ... This is our Common Island ... It may however be proper to observe there are Divisions and Parties throughout the Six Nations ... I will not reproach any Nation; but the Sachems tell us that you have not the Spirit of War ... they fear you will not be able to conquer your Enemies ... they are afraid the Six Nations will fall into difficulties ...

Brothers, strengthen your Minds ... We expect on our Return we shall strengthen the Minds of all our Six Nations, and Unite all the different Parties, when we tell them what we have seen with our own Eyes and have heard with our own Ears ...

Brothers, Sachems, and Warriors ...

This is the first Time of our meeting; however it is very agreeable on our part ... We observed to you, that we are of the Military Characters

Brothers, you know that Warriors are possessed of Firmness of Mind ... that is the Character that commands Respect: as for our Uncles the Sachems who are Counsellors they are apt to prevaricate and their Words fall to the Ground; but what we speak comes to effect ...

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Brothers. Possess your Minds in Peace. And be confident what we have told you, are the real Sentiments of our Hearts, & that the Oneidas and Tuscararows are one. For we really think that Sachems are more liable to forget their Word and Promise than we are. On our Return, Brothers, we will relate to the Six Nations, the whole of what has passed here, particularly that we have seen your Situation and we will tell our Friends, that are now in Expectation and send them the same Message you have delivered to us. And let them know what has taken Place at this Grand Council Fire at Boston, of which the Six Nations have often heard, and we will acknowledge that it is the Great Spirit above, that is our constant Guardian. We feel thankful that he has brought us here in Safety and met so many of our Brothers. Let us always consider him as present, wherever we go!

Brothers, you are informed of our Intention to cross a little Stream to go to see where you make Powder. We thank you for your Assistance in Conducting us there. we want to see those things to satisfy the Sachems, our Uncles, on our Return. not for to satisfy the Warriors.

Brothers, we apprehend it is necessary for our Good as well as yours that we make all possible Dispatch in our Long Journey. We have heard threatning Words from our Enemy and yours at

Niagara and indeed we have been threatned with the same Destruction that you have.. Our Sachems requested us to make all Dispatch when we thought we had seen enough... We told them the King had set his Foot on New York and the Great Warrior was just before them We want to see how Matters are there before we return.. We thank those who have brought us above the Ground... We thank our Brethren for their Kindness wherever we go... We informed our Brothers that General Schuyler desired us to make the greatest Dispatch and that we had a Longer Journey than we imagined

Brothers,.. We have had a friendly Interview through the Providence and Government of the Great Spirit..

We trust we shall Part in Great Friendship and Peace. Some future Day you may hear us speak again... This is all we have to say at Present

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RW 410 (41)

The Speech of the Warriors
from the 6 Nations in
Answer to that made to
them from the Council
Feby 1777